

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment dated January 15, 2008, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

By this Response, claim 26 has been amended. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, claims 25-41 remain pending in this application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, the Examiner restricts claims 26-41 and withdraws claims 26-41 from consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. In response to this restriction, applicants have amended claim 26 to depend from claim 25. Since this is Applicants first opportunity to respond to the restriction, applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment.


Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 23, 2008

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